



Upcoming Events

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5
After the 10:15 service

Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Join us after the 10:15 service for the Easter Egg Hunt (bring a basket). Please bring in a dozen filled eggs (no nuts please!) or use the eggs from the basket in the Narthex!

Confirmation

Church of the Holy Spirit
 Sunday, May 10, 2015
 3:00 PM Service
 The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd
 Presiding

The Bishop's visit has been rescheduled.

Mark Your Calendars!

The children in the Pilgrims Sunday School will be getting confirmed this year.

- **March 29th: Palm Sunday**
- **April 2nd: Children's Lenten Foot washing/ Maundy Thursday Service for families with young children-5:00 pm**
- **April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service-7:30 pm**
- **April 3rd: Good Friday Service-7:30 pm**
- **April 4th: Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service-7:30 pm**
- **April 5th: Easter, Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am &10:15 am**
- **April 5th: Easter, Easter Egg Hunt, No Sunday School**
- **May 10th: Confirmation, 3:00 pm**

Pancake Supper

Thank you to all who helped out and attended the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This fundraiser generated over \$400.00 for our youth fund! We received many positive comments on how well the kids served. Thank you for participating in this wonderful Episcopal tradition!

CLASS/YOUTH NEWS



Lent Activities

Please see the Spiritus for “Lent Madness.” Please consider participating as a family in this fun and informative program.

Children in grades 1-5 will participate in “Walking the Lord’s Prayer.” Please check in with your child’s teacher to see what this is all about!

Guatemala



The Voyager Class will become pen pals with the children at our sister congregation, Espiritu Santo in Guatemala. The Voyager class also made angels and crosses for the children at Christmas time. Eric Frankhouser is the chair of this ministry if you have any questions.

Maundy Thursday Family Service

**April 2nd
5:00 pm**

Service for families with young children- this is a short, interactive service with foot-washing and Holy Communion



I have adapted the following article about children and church. This article was personally meaningful to me and I thought I would share it with you. It is well written and thought provoking.

Why I Make Our Kids Go to Church By Jenny Evans from Deseret News

Often times when you visit a church service on Sunday, the first thing you'll probably notice are families, parents and children, sitting together at church.

We don't have the kids leave for a separate "children's sermon" or spend the hour playing in a nursery. We all sit as families in church, together.

Some days I don't hear much of what's said, or I join the unofficial "parents' club" in the foyer because my kids are being rowdy, but I'd never dream of not attending church as a family.

I take my kids to church because out of all the things I want them to know, *this* is the most important. It's OK if you disagree, but I think it has the greatest potential for lasting happiness of anything I could teach them.

More and more, studies are showing that young families are disappearing from American churches at large and that children and teens aren't participating in religious life.

Most perplexing of all to me, I've heard parents say that they don't want to "make" their kids attend church or "force" their beliefs on them.

When I hear those arguments, I think, *but isn't that part of my job as a parent?*

I "force" beliefs on my kids all the time when I think something is truly important: You need to go to school; you need to wear a seat belt; you need to help out with household chores; you need to get immunizations; you need to brush your teeth.

If my kids were capable of always choosing what was best for them, it'd be one thing. But they're kids. Especially when they're little, they choose what's fun and immediately rewarding, not necessarily what's best in the long run, and that's where Mom and Dad (the old killjoys) come in, making them eat their vegetables and do their homework and go to bed at a decent hour — and, in our house, get up and dressed for church on Sunday morning.

I understand not wanting to brainwash a child, but *I worry that in the name of letting their kids choose, well-intentioned parents out there are really giving their kids no choice at all.*

Taking my daughter to a restaurant and saying, "You can order whatever you want" without giving her any clue as to what's on the menu, or even whether we're in a steakhouse or a Chinese buffet, isn't giving her very much of a choice.

Flying my family to Europe and saying to my son as the plane lands, "The choice is yours — what are we doing on this trip?" isn't going to work out. If he wants to choose *what* to see, he first needs to know what there *is* to see. And even then, he'll need a parent to help him work out all the logistics. He simply doesn't have the life experience to do what I'd be asking him to do.

If kids could hardly be expected to order dinner or plan a trip all on their own, how are they supposed to develop a worldview from scratch without parental guidance?

That's why I think parents have a moral obligation to teach their children whatever belief system they think is right. Of course, kids can tweak the framework they're given as they get older according to their emerging values (I ended up in a different church than my parents), but they need to start with *something*.

Years ago, I wrote an article called "Entertaining Young Children at Church" for an online magazine. I received a comment from one person who said that when a little kid doesn't like church, the parents shouldn't push him but just take turns staying home with him until he's older.

Well, aside from the fact that I'd much rather be at church than home watching "Calliou" every other Sunday, I thought that comment was pretty short-sighted.

Sure, I could do that. I could also let my kids who dislike brushing their teeth wait until they're older, but it's not like the habit will get easier to establish later on, and I think it's too important to wait, anyway. So I'll enforce it now, even on days when they don't particularly want to do it.

Maybe my younger kids would rather stay home playing than attend church, but that doesn't mean they should. The benefit of church isn't in just the one church service but in the entire pattern of gospel learning and living that it's a part of.

They won't see that until they're older, and I'm all right with that. While they're still young, part of my job is to supply them with the long-term vision they aren't quite mature enough to grasp yet.

One day, they'll have the maturity and life experience they were lacking when I made so many of their daily decisions for them, including whether to go to church.

When that day comes, I hope they continue to choose the path I've set them on, but sure enough, they'll choose for themselves. And I won't regret for one minute the years I spent "making" them come to church with me.

